

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appl. No. 09/910,690

ATTACHMENT I - Substitute Specification

Guiding means at a joint

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a guiding means at a joint comprising groove and tenon, preferably intended to be joined with glue.

2. Description of the Related Art

Prefabricated floorboards which at their edges are provided with groove and tenon are well known nowadays. As these are very easy to install it is possible for the normal handy man to achieve this. These type of floors can be constituted of massive wood, fibre board or particle board. These are often provided with a surface layer, such as lacquer or some sort of laminate. The boards are most often installed by gluing them together via their groove and tenon. It is desired to join the separate boards so closely that the joint becomes practically invisible, which increases the moisture resistance radically. The usable life of the installed floor is hereby also increased. In order to achieve a tight joint, it is essential that glue is used excessively. The clearance in the joint will therefore have to be relatively large in order to be able to force the boards together without having to use special equipment due to the forces that would be needed otherwise. A small clearance will cause a hydraulic resistance caused by the glue captured inside the groove during the joining. The clearance needed will however cause a random discrepancy in the levels between adjacent floorboards. This discrepancy in levels will lead to an increased wear at the joint and that moisture may penetrate the joint. The decorative wear layer, often constituted by lacquer or laminate will hereby often be worn down closest to the joint. The wood fibre will hereby be naked closest to the joint, which in addition to being unsightly also may cause the fibres to swell when exposed to moisture. This causes the surface layer to rise closest to the edges whereby these edges will be exposed to further wear, which will decrease the useful life of the floor radically.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It has, through the present invention, quite unexpectedly been possible to solve the above mentioned problems so that the risk for error during installation is radically reduced, whereby the average usable life of the floor, with a guiding means according to the present invention, is considerably increased. Accordingly, the invention relates to a guiding means at a joint comprising groove and tenon preferably intended to be joined with glue. The invention is characterised in that the tenon and/or groove includes guiding wedges. The guiding means preferably forms a part of boards intended to, together form a floor. The core of the boards is constituted by a fibre board or a particle board. At least the upper side of the board is constituted by a decorative thermosetting laminate. The fitting clearance between the tenon and the groove includes a first fitting clearance and a second, guiding, fitting clearance. The second, guiding, fitting clearance is obtained through the guiding wedges. The first fitting clearance comprises the main part of the fit and the second, guiding fitting clearance comprises a smaller part of the fit. The first fitting clearance is in the range 0.1 - 1 mm, preferably 0.1 - 0.5 mm, while the second, guiding, fitting clearance is in the range 0.01 - 0.2 mm, preferably 0.02 - 0.1 mm.

According to one embodiment of the invention the guiding wedges are arranged perpendicular to the extension of the joint.

According to another embodiment of the invention the guiding wedges are arranged parallel to the extension of the joint.

The surfaces of the joint is provided with recesses so that cavities are formed in the joint. The cavities are intended to receive the glue used during the joining.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is further illustrated together with enclosed figures showing different embodiments of the invention whereby,

-figure 1 shows, in perspective view, a first embodiment of a guiding means at a joint, according to the invention.

-figure 2 shows, in perspective view, the embodiment form figure 1 after assembly.

-figure 3 shows, in perspective view, a second embodiment of a guiding means at a joint, according to the invention.

-figure 4 shows, in perspective view, a third embodiment of a guiding means at a joint, according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Accordingly, figure 1 shows, in perspective view seen from above, a first embodiment of a guiding means at a joint according to the invention. The guiding means comprises groove 1 and tenon 2 which usually is intended to be joined by using glue. The tenon 2 comprises guiding wedges 3 on the upper and lower sides. The fitting clearance between the groove 1 and tenon 2 includes a first and a second, guiding, fitting clearance, which second, guiding, fitting clearance is obtained by the guiding wedges 3. The first fitting clearance forms the main part of the fit while the second, guiding, fitting clearance forms a smaller part of the fit. The first fitting clearance is approximately 0.2 mm while the second, guiding fitting clearance is approximately 0.05 mm. The guiding wedges 3 are arranged parallel to the extension of the joint. The same embodiment is shown assembled in figure 2.

The groove and tenon are preferably joined with glue. Such glue may be applied during the manufacture of the groove and/or tenon. When the glue is applied during manufacture, it is preferably activated before the tenon is joined with the groove to form the joint of the invention. As shown in Fig. 3, the cavities 4 are sized and shaped so as to receive the glue during assembly of the joint.

The respective surfaces of the joint are provided with recesses so that cavities 4 are formed in the joint. The cavities 4 are intended to receive the glue used at the assembly. The guiding means comprises a part of boards intended to, together form a floor whereby the core of the board is constituted by fibre board or a particle board and at least the upper side of the board is constituted by a decorative thermosetting laminate.

As shown in Figure 4, the cavities 4 are bounded by the groove 1 and tenon 2, such that the cavities 4 are formed therebetween. In other words, the cavities have a closed cross-section.

Figure 3 shows, in perspective view seen aslant from above, a second embodiment of a guiding means at a joint, according to the invention. The embodiment conforms in general with the one described in connection to figure 1 and 2. The tenon 2 is, however, provided with guiding wedges arranged perpendicularly to the extension of the joint.

Figure 4 shows, in perspective view seen aslant from above, a third embodiment of a guiding means at a joint, according to the invention. The embodiment is shown assembled. The embodiment corresponds in general to the one described in connection to figure 1 and 2, the tenon 2 is however provided with guiding wedges 3 only at the lower side.

The invention is not limited by the embodiments shown since these can be varied in different ways within the scope of the invention. Guiding wedges 3 can, for example, be arranged inside the groove 1. If these guiding wedges 3 are parallel to the extension of the joint, they are suitably arranged in the bottom of the groove 1 while they can be given a shape similar to the one shown in figure 3 if they are arranged perpendicularly to extension of the joint.